

New term of Office – May 2025 onwards

All Parish Councillors are volunteers; they are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve residents' lives. They give up their time, and spend a lot of energy, working to get the best for the communities that they live in, and represent. The Melksham Without Parish Councillors have good local knowledge and a unique understanding of the distinct characteristics of the five villages, two hamlets and rural areas that they represent.

Where they don't have direct decision making authority, they will engage with those who do, for the good of the community. They strive to have:

- a holistic view across the parish
- influence decision makers
- join up the dots and look at the bigger picture
- look at highways and speeding issues

They are committed to achieving the right infrastructure, from community facilities to health and education provision, for all parish residents. At the start of the new term of four years, they have broken that down into more specific priorities and objectives, which are listed in no particular order.

Objectives & Priorities for 2025/26

- To progress the review of the joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan through Examination and Referendum*
- To implement, monitor and use the policies in the current and reviewed Melksham Neighbourhood Plan*
- To progress the installation of a drinking water refill point at Shaw Sports Field
- To review the Emergency Plan*
- To progress the Shurnhold Fields car park and improved entrance project*
- To continue to maintain a good working relationship with Wiltshire Council, the Area Board and all the neighbouring parishes who abut Melksham Without.
- To agree a new lease for Shaw Village Hall with the Management Trust
- To ensure the best outcome for the parish from any major National Infrastructure projects
- To build funds for a new East of Melksham Community Centre
- To review and update the parish council website (both content and to meet new accessibility criteria)
- To progress project for a footbridge over the brook to connect Buckley Gardens development to Bowood View development (off Semington Road, Berryfield)
- To support village halls and community groups with any impact of new legislation e.g.: change in Waste rules, Martyn's Law

Objectives & Priorities for Term of Council (2025-2029)

- To assess and make best use of evolving technology such as AI and Microsoft tools
- To work towards obtaining the Local Council Quality Gold Award
- To continue to provide enhanced access to council meetings via remote technology to improve community engagement.
- To achieve the best outcome for the parish, for the proposed A350 Bypass.
- To continue to progress wider Realtime Information (RTI) in bus shelters across the parish and town*
- To obtain higher speed internet access in the parish
- To improve drainage at Bowerhill Sports Field
- To continue the Melksham Community Support project with Age UK* and look to develop a similar project for younger age groups
- To campaign and progress an improved Melksham health facility/hospital
- To progress an East of Melksham Community Centre*
- To progress Road Safety improvements
- To achieve the best outcome for the community from current and future planning applications for major development in the parish
- To facilitate 3G pitch/es as per the identified need for two pitches in the Melksham community area
- To progress the Bowerhill Sports Field enhancement project with teen shelter/gym equipment

* Working with Melksham Town Council